

REMARKS

In response to the prior Office Action filed on January 22, 2007, applicant pointed out how the claims as then amended were directed to a pump assembly including dual pumps and other components as well as a common reservoir formed as part of the pump assembly and connected to supply supplemental oil flow to the inlets of the two pump mechanisms. It was pointed out how the subject matter of the claims was believed to distinguish over the prior art which was clearly lacking in certain features of the invention as described in the specification. The shortcomings were noted of the cited prior art to disclose or anticipate the subject matter of the invention, in particular the common internal reservoir and the separate inlet to and outlets from the housing which provide main oil connections to the two pump mechanisms while the common reservoir within the housing provides supplemental oil flow to the inlets of the those mechanisms.

The present Office Action held that the remarks in the previous response were not sufficiently incorporated within the claims as amended to support applicant's arguments as to the reasonable scope of the claims as written. However, it was apparent that the incorporation of additional subject matter from the specification should be able to overcome the rejection in view of the shortcomings of the cited prior art. Accordingly, applicant hereby incorporates by reference into the present response the remarks of the prior response filed January 22, 2007 to again put on the record the shortcomings of the cited art to anticipate or make obvious the present invention.

In addition, applicant has here submitted amendments, to claims 1 and 10 primarily, as well as to claims 3 and 4 which are dependant on claim one.

Amended claim 1 now specifically recites, "a common internal reservoir disposed within the housing" and that the internal reservoir is "connected to supply supplemental inlet oil to the first and second pump mechanisms." Further, claim 1 recites that the housing interior includes "a common inlet for receiving oil from an external reservoir, first and second outlets for supplying pressurized oil for lubrication of separate external mechanisms with return to the external reservoir," and the common

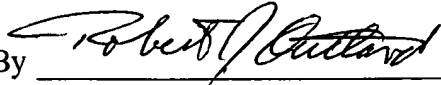
internal reservoir previously mentioned. Similar amendments are made to the subject matter of claim 10, which recites the method of operation of the unit, i.e. the dual oil supply pump, which is the subject of the claims.

It is submitted that with the changes set forth above and clarified in the listing of claims, the amended claims clearly distinguish the present invention from the cited prior art. In this regard it is made clear that the common internal reservoir is a supplemental reservoir in addition to the normal primary oil supply source for the pump assembly in which the primary oil flow enters the pump assembly through a common inlet and leaves the pump assembly through separate outlets, each outlet leading to a separate external mechanism. Furthermore, the connection of the common internal reservoir with the inlets of both pump mechanisms is provided to supplement the oil flow to the pump mechanisms, provide the advantages of sharing the re-circulated oil and allowing control of the inlet pressure to both pumps, even though the rates of oil flow may be different. The cited references do not disclose, even in combination, a pump assembly having the features and advantages of the pump assembly with the common internal oil reservoir as defined by the amended claims.

Applicant appreciates the comments of the Examiner in the present Office Action as to the necessity of clarifying features and operating relationships of the claimed invention by amending the claims to more clearly set forth the novel features and distinguish the claims from prior art references having only a single source of oil. It is submitted that entry of the claims as amended should place this case in condition for allowance. It is believed that the subject matter does not differ except in clarity from that which was defined in the claims as originally filed in the application. Accordingly entry of the amended claims and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the issues raised in the Office Action and to place this case in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Robert J. Outland, Attorney
Reg. No. 22,197
(313) 885-1500